

# TELANGANA MOOD REPORT 2023



**PEOPLES PULSE**  
*an ear to the ground*

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**July - 2023**



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## MOOD OF TELANGANA-2023

Elections to the Telangana state assembly are scheduled to be held this year-end and all the three major political parties – the Bharat Rashtra Samithi, the Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party are gearing up themselves for the battle royale.

While the ruling BRS is confident of scoring a hat trick, the Congress is hoping to wrest power at least this time, riding on the recent outcome in the Karnataka assembly elections. The BJP is pulling out all the stops to conquer Telangana by invoking Hindutva and playing the Narendra Modi card.

Hyderabad-based survey agency, People's Pulse, made an extensive field study across the length and breadth of Telangana for the last three months to know the mood of the people in the state and understand the probable outcome of the assembly elections in the state.

Broadly, the study has revealed that there is undoubtedly a lot of discontent among the people towards the ruling BRS, but not to the extent of pulling it down from power and giving a chance to the opposition parties. At the same time, the Congress and the BJP are not in a position to capitalize on the anti-incumbency and emerge as a potential alternative to the BRS.

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However, majority of the sitting MLAs of the BRS are facing stiff anti-incumbency in their respective constituencies. Though nearly 40 percent of the voters still want BRS president K Chandrasekhar Rao to become the chief minister again, popularity of the local MLAs also play a crucial role in the victory of the BRS in the elections.

According to an independent survey conducted in 2018, 43 percent of voters preferred to cast their vote depending on the reputation of the candidate, while only 21 percent of voters said they would vote by looking at the chief ministerial candidate and 27 percent of voters would vote for the party.

Thus, in December 2018 elections in Telangana, 14 out of 63 sitting BRS MLAs, including four cabinet ministers and the assembly speaker, had lost their seats, while five candidates, who were given tickets replacing the sitting MLAs, had won the elections. In the Congress party, too, only two sitting MLAs – N Uttam Kumar Reddy and Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka had won their seats, while 10 other sitting MLAs had lost.

That is precisely why, the Congress and the BJP are now challenging the BRS to give tickets to all the sitting MLAs, as they have gauged the strong anti-incumbency against them. So, it is a challenge for KCR to drop majority of the sitting MLAs and give the party tickets to fresh faces.

## **CONGRESS HAS NO STRENGTH**

Ever since the Telangana movement gained momentum in the combined Andhra Pradesh, the Congress had never won majority seats in the region. In 2009 elections, when the movement had reached its peak, the Congress had won only 50 out of 119 seats in the Telangana region.

Despite granting the statehood to Telangana in 2014, the position of the Congress had turned from bad to worse in 2014 and 2018 elections. While as many as 51 BRS MLAs could get more than 50 percent of votes in 2018 elections, only six Congress MLAs could achieve this feat.

Even in the local body elections held in Telangana, the party put up a miserable show. In the 2019 local body elections, the Congress could win only 75 ZPTCs, 1,377 MPTCs and 2,709 gram Panchayats. On the other hand, the BRS won 446 ZPTCs, 3556 MPTCs and 7774 gram Panchayats; while the BJP stood a poor third with just eight ZPTCs, 211 MPTCs and 163 gram Panchayats.

The main reason for the poor show of the Congress party at the hustings is lack of a credible and strong mass leader, who can match up to the stature of KCR. That was the reason why the people had voted for the TRS in 2014 elections, though, a survey conducted by CSDS-Lok Niti indicated that 44 percent of the voters had given the credit to the Congress party for the formation of Telangana.

Another reason for the people not believing the Congress party is the en masse defection of the elected Congress MLAs into the BRS. In 2018, out of 19 Congress MLAs elected, 12 MLAs shifted loyalties to the BRS. The party lost two more seats in the by-elections, as a result of which it is left with only five MLAs now. So, there is no guarantee that the same situation does not repeat after the next elections.

Taking into account all these factors, it is clear that the Congress is not in a position to come to power on its own, though its tally in the assembly will go up substantially. It may end up with 30-35 seats.

Another important factor that plays an important role in the elections is attracting various communities. And the BRS has successfully mastered the art of social engineering.

There is a general perception that the Congress has the strong backing of Reddy community. But the reality is otherwise. In 2014 assembly elections, only 7 percent of Reddys voted for the Congress and 52 percent for the BRS. In 2018 elections, too, it was more or less repeated.

Similarly, the Backward Classes, too, preferred the BRS to the Congress. In 2018 elections, more than 50 percent of BCs voted for the BRS and only 29 percent preferred the Congress and nine percent the BJP. Among the Scheduled Castes, 53 percent voted for the BRS, 30 percent for the Congress and six percent for the BJP.

Among the OCs, nearly 47 percent voted for the BRS, 25 percent for the Congress and 13 percent for the BJP. With regard to Muslim community, excluding the AIMIM, over 80 percent of the remaining Muslims supported the BRS in 2018.

So, cutting across all the communities, the BRS has been enjoying the support of all sections of people and hence, has emerged as a strong force. Interestingly, the BRS doesn't have the brand of a particular caste group on it, while majority of the other regional parties in the country have this caste tag.

### **DOES BJP HAVE ANY FUTURE IN TELANGANA?**

Coming to the BJP, the party appears to be taking one step forward and two steps backward in Telangana, despite the fact that the top leadership of the party, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah, has been working out strategies for the last two years to conquer the southern state.

If were one to look the party's performance in the last three elections, the BJP had won just two seats in Telangana during the combined AP state in 2009 , of whom one MLA – Yendala Laxminarayana – lost his seat in 2014 elections. The BJP could win only five out of 45 seats it had contested in alliance with the TDP in 2014 in the newly-formed state.

But the strength slipped to just one seat in December 2018 elections and except Raja Singh, the remaining four MLAs had lost their seats. The BJP had lost its deposits in 105 seats, which clearly showed lack of organizational strength of the party.

However, the BJP had won four Lok Sabha seats in 2019 parliamentary elections in Telangana region. They account for 28 MLA seats and so, in the upcoming assembly elections, the BJP should win these seats. But unfortunately, the party doesn't have even eight strong candidates in these four LS constituencies, who can win the assembly seats.

Though several leaders from the BRS and the Congress defected to the BJP and got prominent positions in the party, but none of them made any efforts to strengthen the organization in their respective constituencies. On the other hand, they are facing allegations of indulging in groupism within the party.

Though the BJP could win the by-elections to two assembly seats in Dubbaka and Huzurabad, it was purely because of the individual popularity of the candidates and not because of the party strength. It was once again proved in by-elections to Munugode assembly seat.

According to the study conducted by the People's Pulse, the BJP doesn't have strong candidates in at least 90 assembly constituencies. Even the four sitting MPs do not have the capability to ensure victory of at least four MLAs each in their respective domains.

Going by the ground-level situation, the BJP may be confined to just a single digit in the assembly once again.

## **EXISTENTIAL CRISIS FOR COMMUNISTS**

With regard to the Communist parties – CPI and CPI (M), they are virtually fighting for their existence in Telangana, let alone winning any seats. The two parties, which had nominal presence in the assembly in 2009 and 2014, only because of their alliance with the other major parties, have lost their vote bank considerably.

In 2018 elections, both the parties had lost their existence due to their strategic mistakes. Even in their so-called strongholds of Nalgonda and Khammam, they do not have any hopes of winning any seat in the upcoming elections.

## **AIMIM EXPANSION ?**

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM), which has been contesting in various state assemblies in the country, has announced that it would field candidates in more than 40 constituencies in Telangana in the coming assembly elections.

But there are allegations that the MIM had indirectly helped the BJP by contesting the assembly elections in several states and splitting the Muslim votes. This led to the talk that the MIM has become the “B” team of the BJP and if it contests in more seats in Telangana to prevent the Muslims inclining towards the Congress, it would ultimately help the BJP.

So, it would be interesting to see what the party would do in Telangana, which has more than 12 percent Muslim population. The AIMIM, which can definitely win its present seven seats again, is trying to increase the number to at least 10 this time, It can achieve its goal.

With regard to other parties like the Bahujan Samaj Party led by retired IPS officer R S Praveen Kumar, YSR Telangana Party led by Y S Sharmila and Telugu Desam Party led by Kasani Gyaneshwar, they hardly have any chance to win any seats.



However, the BSP is expected to make some damage to the Congress party vote bank by splitting the Dalit votes and Praveen Kumar, if chooses a right constituency, might win his seat because of his clout among the community.

By large, it can be concluded that the BRS might return to power in Telangana for the third consecutive term because of the weak opposition.

Almost all the opposition parties in the state have fallen into the trap of KCR inadvertently and are following the agenda set by him. A split in the anti-incumbency vote would help the BRS come to power again. However, the victory of the BRS would depend on two factors – how many sitting MLAs would KCR drop and how he would erase the growing impression among the people that the BRS is the “B” team of the BJP.

Going by the field-level study conducted by the People’s Pulse, the difference in vote share between the BRS and the Congress could be around 9-10 percent, which will help the BRS return to power comfortably. The BJP might get with 13-14 percent vote share and end up in a poor third position.

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## Voting Preference Community wise Telangana

S.n	Category	BRS			CONG			BJP		
		2014	2018	2019	2014	2018	2019	2014	2018	2019
1	Upper caste	27	47	14	27	25	32	46	13	41
2	OBC's	41	50	41	25	29	25	23	9	25
3	SC	33	53	51	17	30	36	19	4	5
4	ST	-	43	59	-	42	29	-	6	5
5	Muslims	-	33	43	-	34	42	-	1	2
6	Reddy's	52	42	31	7	43	21	15	7	33

- ◆ Source : CSDS - Lokniti
- ◆ In 2014 BJP Contested in Alliance with TDP

## Voting Preference Economic Class wise

S.n	Category	BRS		CONG		BJP	
		2014	2019	2014	2019	2014	2019
1	Poor	45	48	26	28	19	13
2	Lower	36	44	21	30	21	19
3	Upper	28	25	26	18	27	43

- ◆ Source : CSDS - Lokniti
- ◆ In 2014 BJP Contested in Alliance with TDP

## CONGRESS LOSING SEATS SINCE 2009 IN THE FOLLOWING ASSEMBLY SEGMENTS

SNO	ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY	OLD DISTRICT
1	SIRPUR	ADILABAD
2	CHENNUR	ADILABAD
3	BELLAMPALLY	ADILABAD
4	MANCHERIAL	ADILABAD
5	KHANAPUR	ADILABAD
6	ADILABAD	ADILABAD
7	BOATH	ADILABAD
8	NIRMAL	ADILABAD
9	ARMOOR	NIZAMBAD
10	JUKKAL	NIZAMBAD
11	BANSWADA	NIZAMBAD
12	NIZAMBAD URBAN	NIZAMBAD
13	NIZAMBAD RURAL	NIZAMBAD
14	BALKONDA	NIZAMBAD
15	KAMAREDDY	NIZAMBAD
16	KORUTLA	KARIMNAGAR
17	DHARMAPURI	KARIMNAGAR
18	RAMAGUNDAM	KARIMNAGAR
19	PEDDAPALLI	KARIMNAGAR
20	KARIMNAGAR	KARIMNAGAR
21	CHOPPADANDI	KARIMNAGAR
22	VEMULAWADA	KARIMNAGAR
23	SIRICILLA	KARIMNAGAR
24	HUZURABAD	KARIMNAGAR
25	SIDDIPET	MEDAK

<b>SNO</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>OLD DISTRICT</b>
26	MEDAK	MEDAK
27	QUTUBULAPUR	RANGAREDDY
28	KUKATPALLY	RANGAREDDY
29	IBRAHIMPATNAM	RANGAREDDY
30	RAJENDRANAGAR	RANGAREDDY
31	MALAKPET	HYDERABAD
32	AMBERPET	HYDERABAD
33	NAMPALLY	HYDERABAD
34	KARWAN	HYDERABAD
35	CHARMINAR	HYDERABAD
36	CHANDRAYANA GUTTA	HYDERABAD
37	YAKUTPURA	HYDERABAD
38	BAHUDURPURA	HYDERABAD
39	KODANGAL	MAHABOORNAGAR
40	NARAYANPET	MAHABOORNAGAR
41	MAHABOORNAGAR	MAHABOORNAGAR
42	JADCHERLA	MAHABOORNAGAR
43	DEVARAKADRA	MAHABOORNAGAR
44	NAGARKURNOOL	MAHABOORNAGAR
45	ACCHAMPET	MAHABOORNAGAR
46	BOHNAGIR	NALGONDA
47	THUNGATURTHI	NALGONDA
48	PALAKURTHI	WARANGAL
49	NARSAMPET	WARANGAL
50	WARANGAL WEST	WARANGAL
51	WYRA	KHAMMAM
52	SATTUPALLY	KHAMMAM

## BRS WON ABOVE 50% VOTE SHARE IN 2014 ASSEMBLY ELECTOINS

SNO	ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY	BRS
1	CHENNUR	50.79
2	BELLAMPALLY	61.76
3	MANCHERIAL	61.62
4	JUKKAL	51.63
5	PEDDAPALLE	57.33
6	CHOPPADANDI	58.13
7	SIRICILLA	58.36
8	MANAKONDUR	54.2
9	HUZURABAD	58.76
10	HUSNABAD	55
11	SIDDIPET	71.96
12	MEDAK	56.64
13	SANGAREDDY	52.63
14	DUBBAKA	53.57
15	ALAIR	52.79
16	STATION GHANPUR	57.83
17	WARANGAL WEST	59.31
18	WARANGAL EAST	59.82
19	WARDHANNAPET	66.15

## BRS WON ABOVE 50% VOTE SHARE IN 2018 ASSEMBLY ELECTOINS

SNO	ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY	BRS
1	SIRPUR	50.57
2	CHENNUR	53.06
3	ARMUR	51.37
4	JUKKAL	51.2
5	BANSWADA	53.46
6	NIZAMBAD RURAL	50.86
7	KORUTLA	51.63
8	JAGITAL	65.27
9	CHOPPADANDI	53.79
10	VEMULAWADA	54.7
11	SIRICILLA	70.89
12	MANAKONDUR	51.47
13	HUZURABAD	62.67
14	HUSNABAD	59.34
15	SIDDIPET	78.59
16	MEDAK	57.84
17	NARAYANAKHED	55
18	ANDOLE	52.61
19	NARSAPUR	57.54
20	ZAHIRABAD	51.14
21	PATANCHERU	54.41
22	DUBBAKA	54.36

<b>SNO</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>BRS</b>
23	GAJWEL	60.45
24	MEDCHAL	54.98
25	MALKAJGIRI	55.49
26	QUTUBULLAPUR	53.39
27	KUKATPALLY	52.3
28	UPPAL	51.53
29	SERILINGAMPALLY	51.22
30	CHEVELLA	55.96
31	MUSHEERABAD	50.42
32	SANATNAGAR	55.52
33	SECUNDERABAD	60.18
34	SECUNDERABAD CONT	56.7
35	MAHABOONNAGAR	54.16
36	JADCHERLA	58.95
37	DEVARAKADRA	55.12
38	WANAPARTHY	60.31
39	GADWAL	52.6
40	ALAMPUR	56.83
41	NAGARKURNOOL	60.8
42	ACHAMPET	50.11
43	DEVARAKONDA	51.97
44	NALGONDA	53.22
45	JANGON	50.47
46	PALAKURTHY	59.19
47	DORNKAL	50.73
48	PARKAL	59.64
49	WARANGAL WEST	56.76
50	WARANGAL EAST	53.94
51	WARDHANNAPET	69.35



**CONGRESS WON ABOVE 50% VOTE SHARE  
IN 2014 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

<b>SNO</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>CONG</b>
1	DORNAKAL	51.11

**CONGRESS WON ABOVE 50% VOTE SHARE  
IN 2018 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

<b>SNO</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>CONG</b>
1	YELLAREDDY	54.31
2	MANTHANI	50.41
3	MUNUGODU	50.51
4	MULUGU	52.71
5	PINAPAKA	50.13

**MIM WON ABOVE 50% VOTE SHARE  
IN 2014 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

<b>SNO</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>MIM</b>
1	KARWAN	53.95
2	CHARMINAR	57.11
3	CHANDRAYANAGUTTA	59.19
4	BAHUDURPURA	79.2

**MIM WON ABOVE 50% VOTE SHARE  
IN 2018 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

<b>SNO</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>MIM</b>
1	KARWAN	52.88
2	CHARMINAR	53.36
3	CHANDRAYANAGUTTA	67.95
4	BAHUDURPURA	74.26

**BJP WON ABOVE 50% VOTE SHARE  
IN 2014 ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

<b>SNO</b>	<b>ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY</b>	<b>CONG</b>
1	AMBERPET	55.7
2	GOSHAMAHAL	58.51



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